

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#2/A
2-13-01
M.L.

In re patent application of
Bernard BRODEUR *et al.*

Serial No. Unassigned

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: October 6, 2000

Examiner: Unassigned

For: PROTEINASE K RESISTANT SURFACE PROTEIN OF
NEISSERIA MENINGITIDIS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits of the above-identified application, please amend
the applications as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

After the claims, please insert the Abstract:

-- ABSTRACT

The identification of a highly conserved, immunologically accessible antigen on the surface of *Neisseria* facilitates treatment, prophylaxis, and diagnosis of *Neisseria* diseases. This antigen is highly resistant to proteinase K and has an apparent molecular weight of 22 kDa on SDS-PAGE. Specific polynucleotides encoding proteins of this class have been isolated from three *Neisseria meningitidis* strains and from one *Neisseria gonorrhoea* strain. These polynucleotides have been sequenced, and the corresponding full-length amino acid sequences of the encoded polypeptides have been deduced. Recombinant DNA methods for the production of the *Neisseria* surface protein, and antibodies that bind to this protein are also disclosed. --

A1